

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 SSM-03 TRSE-00 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04
SIL-01 OMB-01 /072 W
-----065736 151215Z /45

R 141407Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7252
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 5178

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, PGOV, IS
SUBJECT: THE HISTADRUT AND THE NEW ERA IN ISRAEL

1. THE FOLLOWING IS THE SUMMARY OF THE EMBASSY'S
A-142 OF JULY 12, 1977 WHICH DISCUSSES THE LIKELY
ROLE OF THE HISTADRUT IN THE MONTHS AHEAD FOLLOWING
THE MAY 17 KNESSET ELECTION AND THE JUNE 21 HISTADRUT
ELECTION: BEGIN TEXT

2. THE RESULTS OF THE HISTADRUT ELECTION REFLECT
THE AMBIVALENCE OF THE ELECTORATE TOWARD CHANGE.
FOUGHT LARGELY OVER SOCIO-ECONOMIC ISSUES, THE SUR-
PRISINGLY STRONG ALIGNMENT SHOWING WEAKENED THE APPARENT
MANDATE GIVEN THE LIKUD IN THE KNESSET ELECTION FOR
INTRODUCING FAR-REACHING CHANGES IN ISRAEL'S ECONOMY
AND SOCIEITY, PARTICULARLY THOSE THAT WOULD LIMIT THE
HISTADRUT'S EXTENSIVE POWER. THE HISTADRUT
LEADERSHIP, OPPOSED TO THE CHANGES CALLED FOR IN
THE LIKUD PROGRAM, HOPES TO PERSUADE THE GOVERNMENT
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TO REFRAIN FROM WHAT IT CONSIDERS AS HOSTILE LEGIS-
LATION, OFFERING IN RETURN TO NEGOTIATE A SOCIAL
PACKAGE. THE GOVERNMENT HAS WARNED AGAINST USING
THE HISTADRUT TO CHALLENGE THE LIKUD COALITION, BUT
AWARE OF THE HISTADRUT'S LEVERAGE AND UNSURE OF THE
BACKING OF ALL SEGMENTS OF THE COALITION, THE GOVERN-
MENT IS DELAYING IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS PROGRAM. FOR

THE TIME BEING, THERE IS A STANDOFF, EACH SIDE UN-
CERTAIN OF THE POLITICAL STRENGTH OF THE OTHER AND
CONCERNED OVER THE VITAL FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES. BUT
A TEST OF STRENGTH WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY OCCUR BEFORE
TOO LONG AND IT COULD PRECIPITATE A REALIGNMENT OF
POLITICAL FORCES. IN THE MEANTIME, A POWER STRUGGLE
BETWEEN SECRETARY GENERAL MESHEL AND LABOR PARTY
LEADERS LOOM WITHIN THE HISTADRUT. IN ALL THIS,
THE POSITION OF THE DMC AMONG THE COMPETING FORCES
IS STILL UNCERTAIN. HAVING FAILED IN BOTH THE KNESSET
AND HISTADRUT ELECTIONS TO EMERGE INDISPENSABLE TO
A COALITION, THE DMC HAS YET TO DECIDE ITS FUTURE
ROLE. END TEXT.
LEWIS

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Message Attributes

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